

The SOUTHEAST NEWS

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

Volume 3 - Number 1

OCTOBER, 1954



"Our Decision"

(Story on page 2)

OUR DECISION

(Cover Picture)

The picture on the cover this month might have been taken in any of the churches of the Convention during the week of September 20-24. It was taken at the moment that two church officers prepared to sign Our Decision card at the climax of an Every Church Canvass meeting.

Mrs. Emmett Bailey, clerk, and Artis Hardy, treasurer, signed for the congregation of La-Grange United.

The scene below was also a common sight as teams of laymen and ministers arrived at churches throughout the Convention to put on the Every Member Church Canvass. Rev. John Pickens, Jr., and William White were such a team. Thirty-two teams were in the field, leading in this first great promotional effort on behalf of "Our Christian World Mission". Each team came fully equipped with a 35 mm. film-strip projector and a tape recorder for the showing of "Our Day of Decision", produced, written and narrated by Superintendent Butterfield to present the needs and opportunities confronting us in "Our Christian World Mission". Because of the excellent planning done by the Committee on Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education, the careful attention to details by the Convention staff, and the whole-hearted co-operation of teams and churches, "Our Day of Decision" marked the beginning of a new and glorious chapter in the history of the Congregational Christian Churches of the South.

A complete report is not yet available, but decision cards which have already been returned indicate a most favorable response on the part of our people and churches. Our minimum budget is already assured, and it is expected that when all cards have been tabulated, the giving to our Christian World Mission for 1954-55 will be almost double that of 1953-54.



William White and Rev. John Pickens, Jr.

NEW MODERATOR

Dr. Albert Buckner Coe, who was elected Moderator of the General Council at New Haven, has been a leader in denominational work since the end of World War I.

Born in Henderson, N. C., son of a Methodist minister, Dr. Coe attended Yale Divinity School and Johns Hopkins University. He took special studies at Cambridge University in England.

On a national level Dr. Coe has served the Congregational Church as a member of the Executive Committee of the General Council and as National Chairman of the Congregational Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction.

Mrs. Coe is active in state and national church work. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the General Council.

Two sons are ministers: the Rev. Chalmers Coe serves Mount Vernon Congregational church in Boston and the Rev. Buckner Coe is minister of the Spring Glen Congregational Church in Hamden, Conn.

NATIONAL LAYMEN'S MEETING

The first nationwide meeting of Congregational Christian churchmen (laymen, ministers, women) will be held at Palmer House, Chicago, Ill., February 25-27, 1955.

Briefly, the Convention purposes are: to enable participants to feel the power of Congregational Christian churchmen united; to challenge men to look at vocations with applied Christian standards; to raise informational levels above local viewpoints, thus demonstrating Christianity as the answer to a city's problems; and to give men a greater appreciation of our heritage and what the Church means in every walk of life.

Vocational seminars will be held with experienced leaders presiding. Wives are welcome and plans are being made for their entertainment.

Herman D. Cook, Convention president of the Layman's Fellowship, urges laymen and ministers of the Southeast Convention to begin making plans to attend. For further information and registration blanks, write to Mr. Cook at 1110 North 3rd St., Lanett, Ala.; or to Walter Graham, Pembroke, Ky.

School of Churchmanship

The second School of Churchmanship for laymen of the Southeast Convention will be held November 7, at Southern Union College, Wadley, Alabama.

Sessions will begin at two o'clock Sunday afternoon and conclude at eight. Seminar topics will be "The Holy Bible", led by Rev. Allyn Wadleigh and Pressley Ingram; and "Prayer", led by Rev. W. W. Elder and James Dollar. Supt. Erston M. Butterfield will be the speaker for the evening session.

Herman D. Cook, Convention chairman of the Laymen's Fellowship, urges that every laymen's group of every church be represented at this School of Churchmanship.

Church Builders Club Meeting

The first annual meeting of the Trustees, officers and interested members of the Church Builders Club will be held at the Langdale Church, Langdale, Ala., October 31.

At the organizational meeting in Tifton, August 30, nearly 300 representatives from churches in Alabama and Georgia were present. This club is a voluntary movement to help build new churches within the Southeast Convention by providing a fund of \$5,000 for each new church. In order to do this, the club must obtain 1,000 members. There are now 444 members who have pledged to pay \$5 to each new church which is approved by the organization.

Officers elected last August were: Lester Shaw, president; John Dees, vice president; Rev. W. C. Carpenter, secretary; and J. T. Gill, treasurer.

SHARE OUR SURPLUS

Hunger still stalks the world; two of every three persons are always hungry.

In America our agricultural surplus is mounting from year to year at heavy cost of storage and with threat of spoilage.

Through the "Share Our Surplus" program of Church World Service, about five hundred million pounds of government surplus foods and commodities valued at more than \$150,000,000 at wholesale market prices, will be distributed to the world's needy during the next three years.

The cost of the administration and distribution of these supplies is the only outlay which must be met by the member denominations of Church World Service. "This means that for every dollar contributed to this great work of compassion, a total of \$20 worth of foods, at our current prices, will reach the ill, undernourished and destitute throughout the world," declared Mr. Harper Sibley, chairman of CWS.

Both the General Council and the Missions Council have voted that our Fellowship should participate in the Share Our Surplus program. Sample envelopes, posters and other literature is being mailed out to all ministers of our churches.

This special gift lies outside our accepted responsibilities as defined within Our Christian World Mission budget. It is, therefore, an extra gift, without apportionment credit in the Year-book.

"Thanksgiving Day has been fittingly chosen as the time for the ingathering of these funds. We hope our ministers and churches will cooperate in Community Thanksgiving Services throughout the land at which SOS offerings will be received," said David H. Sandstrom, Associate Minister of the Missions Council. "If this is impossible, let the local church in special Thanksgiving worship provide opportunity for its people to share in this opening of our national storehouse to the hungry overseas. Thus our national gratitude to God may express itself in our out-poured compassion for our fellowmen."

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION WORKSHOP

The Rev. Henry R. Rust, general secretary of youth work for the department of Christian Education with headquarters in Boston, Mass., will be in Lanett, Ala., October 18 and 19 for workshop sessions. Sponsored by the Convention Committee on Christian Education and Youth Work, the sessions will begin in the Lanett Church at one o'clock the afternoon of Oct. 18 and will end at noon on October 19.

The Rev. Annie R. Campbell, chairman of the Convention committee, has invited members of the convention committee, chairmen of Christian Education in the associations and conferences, state advisors of Pilgrim Fellowship, officers of Pilgrim Fellowship for the Convention and the associations and conferences and Junior High representatives of the associations and conferences.

Important matters to be considered include types of buildings recommended for the campsite now under consideration; duties and areas of responsibility for the P. F. officers, state and district officers; the Three Commission Plan; mission study materials available; cordination of summer conferences and family camps; planning for district and Convention-wide youth rallies.

The Lanett Church is providing overnight accommodations for all delegates to the workshop, and also furnishing breakfast.

PROGRESS

Seaman and Mountain Creek Union Churches are making real progress under the leadership of their pastor, the Rev. Otto Culpepper. In the past weeks both churches have taken in 19 new members. With an increase in membership and a desire for a more active church program, Union is now on half-time, holding regular services on the first and third Sundays. Seaman continues its monthly service on the fourth Sunday. Below is a picture of Mr. Culpepper and some of the congregation during a fellowship meal on September 19, the day Butterfield visited Mt. Creek.



The most effective sermon is that given by a good example.

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An Appeal

The Congregational Christian Historical Society was formally organized two years ago to meet a long neglected duty of this generation to prepare ourselves the better to serve our own times and to preserve for future generations the rich values of our historic years.

Sharing in its work and support, as they did in its organization, are The General Council, The American Congregational Association, the Board of Home Missions, The American Board for Foreign Missions, state conferences and interested churches and individuals across the nation.

Miss Helen Kenyon, Chairman of the Committee on Public Relations that our churches put the Society in their budgets -- a gift of \$10 or more will make the church a full voting member of the Society.

Puerto Rico Tour

The itinerary for the Puerto Rico tour, which is scheduled for January 31 - February 10, 1955, will include Ryder Hospital and Yuquiyu Rural Life Community; our churches and chapels; conferences with leaders in government, education, labor and industry; Luquillo Beach; El Morro Castle; and other points of scenic and historic interest.

Travel from New York to San Juan and return is by Eastern Airlines (tourist flight); on the island by automobile. The cost will be \$225 per person from New York City and return.

For further information, please write to Dr. Philip M. Widenhouse, 287 Fourth Avenue, N.Y.C.

Announcing -- Workshop

The Council for Social Action's new publication, **WORKSHOP**, reprinted from **Social Action**, will take the place of **CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY**, ap-

October 17 - Laymen's Sunday

The Church's greatest single need today is not more machinery or better, not new organization or more and novel methods, but men whom the Holy Spirit can use. Throughout the world a new awakening is coming to laymen as to the importance of their witness. This finds expression in their daily living, in business and in community service. Many laymen support their local churches with outstanding devotion; others seek wider fields as counselors of youth, leaders and preachers to pastorless churches. They use their talents in numerous projects for a better world. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit flows through men.

October 23 - Work Day for Christ

Each year Pilgrim Fellowship set aside a day called Work Day for Christ in which they seek a job for pay and dedicate that pay for the work of Our Christian World Mission. This year's Work Day is Saturday, October 23. As an expression of their belief in the purpose and task of their churches, our young people meet at the end of the day for a worship service of consecration of their funds for use in Pilgrim Fellowship projects of Our Christian World Missions.

October 24 - World Order Sunday and United Nations Day

World Order Day has special significance this year because it falls on the birthday of the United Nations, October 24. This day will be observed in our own country and in many other nations around the world as United Nations Day. Ministers and laymen are called upon to observe World Order Day with prayer of thanksgiving for the United Nations and of penitence for our failure to dedicate ourselves fully to the task of working for peace, justice and freedom in the world of nations. The General Council of the National Council of Churches urges our churches to study the achievements, failures and limitations of the United Nations as an instrument of cooperation and peaceful change; and to support United States participation in the United Nations and in other efforts through which we discharge our responsibility to the world community.

A Prayer for World Order

O God who hast taught us to pray for the coming of thy kingdom on this earth, give us grace to build our communities after the fashion of thy kingdom, to set no boundries about them which thou wouldst not set, to quiet the tumult and strife within them by brotherly love, and to work the more diligently for concord within them because our final hope is in the city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

pearing monthly from September through June. Along with it will go any special materials or leaflets which CSA believes will be of value.

— SUPERINTENDENT'S PAGE —

Our Day of Decision

These are days for rejoicing and thanksgiving! Our minimum Convention goal for Our Christian World Mission is assured and the plan that will bring us to complete self support in from three to five years is well under way.

Giving in the true spirit of Christian Stewardship brings its own rewards, but I should like to express my sincere appreciation for the excellent cooperation of all of you who helped make the Every Church Canvass such an overwhelming success.

To the Evangelism, Stewardship and Missionary Education Committee, the staff, the churches who served as hosts for the training sessions, the laymen and ministers who teamed up to do the actual canvassing, the congregations who responded so wonderfully -- I would express my gratitude and the thanks of countless thousands in far off places in the world who will know a better life because of **your** Decision.

Not long ago I uncovered a little folder buried deep in my file written by Rev. A. Odell Leonard. Because we have given proof of having so many "living churches", I thought it most appropriate for these days of soul-searching and consecrated action. It is entitled "Dead, Dying or Living Churches."

I. DEAD CHURCH

There is no law forcing burial of a dead church. If a funeral should be held, a mirror might well be placed in the casket.

- D** Dead and doesn't know it. Who does? Who cares? Self-centered . . . just keeping up tradition . . . often has much worldly goods, empty pews and unused edifice.
- E** Ears and eyes she has, yet hears and sees not. "Arise from the dead" is unheard. Nearest call for help is farther away than Macedonia. Her ear drums are burst from flattery. Her eyes are closed, hence she cannot see the outstretched hands of the needy, nor the Man on the Cross.
- A** Arteries are hardened and hence the blood of spiritual life is stopped. There are no prayer meetings, and Sunday evening services are out of date.
- D** Demands little of her pastor, dotes on her great history; has few members to erase, and has a large cemetery.

*The world owes every man a living—
but he has to go out and collect it.*

II. DYING CHURCH

Interesting how sick and near death one can be and yet never realize it.

- D** Dying Church is often worldly, popular in the community. Generally "debt-free".
- Y** You witness large attendance on special days and do well to get a seat when Communion is observed on Easter Sunday morning, but members are too busy for more than attending one service on the Lord's Day, now and then: mostly then.
- I** In giving she can see only the needs of the local church.
- N** Nothing is done along lines of evangelism, because the "main" members think winning souls to Christ is "old timey" and this church is usually dominated by a few "leading families" or a couple of cliques.
- G** Going to delinquent members in an attempt to win them back is too much trouble. They are erased. Now the pastor has less work and can prepare "simple gospel" sermons and preach "as our pastor should."

* * *

III. LIVING CHURCH

Her heart is beating because her pulse is strong and regular.

- L** Life is enthusiastically and intellectually enjoyed. In bringing others to Christ she is finding Him. In losing herself she finds the Lord of all Life.
- I** In her program the children and youth are of primary importance. None are too poor and none are too rich.
- V** Victorious in consecration and self-forgetfulness, she also excels in rendering more service than she demands. She is the pastor's force and expects him to lead. The pastor and people expect much of each other, and both expect much of God.
- I** In the community she merits respect and enjoys good attendance at all services. She makes room for the Holy Spirit, always.
- N** Never counts others in debt to her, but feels her responsibility to others a high privilege and noble challenge.
- G** Goes to those members who have grown indifferent and constrains them to return, realizing these souls are also precious in the sight of God.

Dead, Dying or Living, which shall my church be? There's no use blaming others, the answer depends on me.

PLEASANT HILL

Sunday, September 26, was a most meaningful day in the life of Dr. and Mrs. Paul Reynolds and the Pleasant Hill Community. Representatives from church of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference gathered for the service of installation which took place at 4:30 that afternoon. Nearly 150 members, guests and friends were on hand for the impressive ceremony in which Dr. Reynolds was duly installed as minister of the Pleasant Hill Church and Director of the Community Center.

Dr. Samuel C. Kincheloe, who delivered the sermon, and Dr. Bryant Drake represented the A.M.A. and the Home Board. The Rev. George S. Hunt, Moderator of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, presided.

Other participants in the service included Mrs. T. L. Cunningham, church clerk; the Rev. Eugene Smathers, the Rev. Abram Nightingale, the Rev. Arnold Slater, Supt. Butterfield, the Rev. Hugh Lasseter, and Dr. May Wharton and Miss Marjorie Wightman, who welcomed the Reynolds on behalf of the church and community.

The Youth Choir, with Mrs. O. C. Stewart at the piano, presented special music.

All the churches of the Convention join Pleasant Hill in welcoming Dr. and Mrs. Reynolds into our fellowship and pray for them a long and happy ministry among us.

Some day people will learn that material things do not bring happiness and are of little use in making men and women creative and powerful. Then the scientists of the world will turn their laboratories over to the study of God and prayer and the spiritual forces which as yet have hardly been scratched. When this day comes, the world will see more advancement in one generation than it has seen in the past four.

—Charles P. Steinmetz, in ADVANCE



Rev. Hunt, Dr. Reynolds, Dr. Kincheloe, and Dr. Drake

There have been as great souls unknown to fame as any of the most famous.



Dr. May Wharton, Dr. Reynolds, Mrs. Reynolds and Miss Wightman

Mrs. Fralic Appointed

Mrs. John C. Fralic of Tallassee, Ala., has been appointed President of the Alabama Women's Fellowship by the Nominating Committee to fill the unexpired term of Mrs. Lowell A. Smoot. Mary Margaret Smoot resigned in August, since she and the Rev. Lowell A. Smoot are moving to Soddy, Tenn., where Mr. Smoot has accepted the pastorate of the Soddy-Daisy Parish.

Mrs. Fralic is well qualified for this position, as she has served as President of the East Tallassee Women's Fellowship, President of the Central Association women, State Secretary for two terms, and advisor of the Junior Pilgrim Fellowship of the East Tallassee Church.

TO ALABAMA WOMEN

Dear Friends:

It is with a saddened heart that I write this letter of resignation to you. While I served as your State President, I met so many wonderful folks, and had looked forward to another fruitful year of work with you.

However, we hardly ever get our desires fulfilled as we "order" them, but "all things work together for good" if we only have faith and patience. And, I will continue to keep in touch with you through the Southeast channels.

I'm pleased that you are to have Miriam Fralic a devoted helper, as your State President. Just give her the splendid cooperation that I've had, and her job won't be a burden but a joyful task.

When you are traveling in our section of Tennessee drinking in some of the rare beauty of the mountains, stop by to see the Smoots in Soddy; the welcome mat is always out!

May God continue to bless you as you go forth doing service in His name.

Sincerely,

Mary Margaret Smoot

NOTICE: Packet materials and yearbooks may be secured from Mrs. John C. Fralic, Tallassee, Ala.

REV. DAVENPORT HONORED

On Sunday, September 19, the congregation and community of Daisy, Tenn., honored the Rev. Jas. W. Davenport at an Open House held in the Community Cabin adjoining the church.

The Rev. Davenport, beloved pastor of the **Daisy Congregational Church**, retired from the active pastorate September 23. He came to Daisy in 1926 as pastor. At that time the only buildings were the old church, formerly the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, and the Cabin. Later a new parsonage was built and the present church was completed and dedicated in 1938. The pastor worked tirelessly in the building of this church and it was largely through his efforts the project was finished.

The Rev. Davenport received his early schooling at the Grandview Normal Institute, a Congregational school at Grandview, Tenn. He attended the Atlanta Theological Seminary from which he graduated in May, 1916. He was ordained the following June. While attending the Seminary, he served a small Methodist mission in Atlanta and a mission in Gallup, New Mexico, during his summer vacations. Mr. Davenport served Congregational churches at Thorsby, Ala., and Robbins, Tenn., for a five year period each.

Mr. Davenport married the former Miss Martha Swafford, of Litton, Tenn., a teacher in the public schools of Bledsoe County. They have three sons: William, of Nashville; Paul, of Daisy; and Harold, pastor of the Ankeny Congregational Church in Ankeny, Iowa. Gene Burnett, son of Mrs. Davenport's deceased sister, Mrs. Nancy Burnett, was reared in the Davenport home as one of the sons.

As friends gathered to pay their tribute of love and respect to the Rev. and Mrs. Davenport, three of their four sons were also present in the receiving line. Harold Davenport was unable to attend.

—Mrs. Claude Pendergrass

Major Weston In Germany

The Rev. Logan E. Weston, Major in the U. S. Army, is now stationed in Germany. Mr. Logan was ordained in the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ga., and served as supply pastor to a number of churches in Georgia and East Alabama.

Major Logan and his wife and family have a ten room house with a large yard and garden on the east side of Nurnburg. It is a thirty-five minute drive to his office, and writes that he only gets to be with his family about a half day on Saturdays and Sundays when they are in Garrison. About one third of the time he is away on field problems and doesn't see them at all.

Religion In American Life

During the month of November posters will remind us that the souls of all in a family are lifted and restored as the family worships as one. Worship together every week.

TRIP TO EUROPE - ANNIVERSARY GIFT

On the occasion of the 66th Anniversary of the founding of the First Congregational Church of Crossville, Tenn., and 30 years of continuous service as its minister, held September 12, the Rev. Abraham Nightingale was presented with a trip to Europe. The Rev. and Mrs. Harold Freer and family of Cleveland, Ohio, have invited Mr. Nightingale to accompany them to Europe probably about June, 1955; and the Men's Fellowship of the church is underwriting the trip as a gift to their beloved pastor. Mrs. Edwin A. Reed, President of the Ladies Guild of the church, also presented Mr. Nightingale with an envelope containing a pledge of \$50 for his trip from members of this society.

Many out of town guests were present, and scores of letters and telegrams of congratulations and special greetings were received.

A reception was held in the social room of the church during the afternoon. In the receiving line was Mrs. Nancy Taylor, oldest member of the church able to attend. Mrs. Susan W. Dunbar, some older than Mrs. Taylor, was unable to attend, although she had daughters and granddaughters present.

SOUTHERN UNION NEWS

Southern Union College opened its fall quarter with the largest enrollment in the history of the school -- 129 students were registered as of September 27, an increase of 40% over last fall. To take care of the large increase in men students, it was necessary to switch dormitories. Boys are living in Kimball Hall and girls in the old president's house. Both dormitories are filled. For the first few days some students were standing in classes. Rush orders went out for more chairs. The chapel is completely filled for assemblies. There is a shortage of library, classroom, laboratory, chapel and dormitory space.

Several new members have been added to the faculty. Robert Yoh, Chester, Vermont, is the new Literature Professor. He is also serving as college Chaplain. Miss Alta MacLaren, Sutton, Mass., is Registrar. Mrs. Dorothy Reiss, Malden, Mass., is serving as Dean of Women and manager of the book store. The Rev. Carolyn Welch is librarian and teaching religious history in our Ministerial Training Program. Mrs. B. O. Harris and Mrs. Donald Ross are dietitians.

The college is fortunate in having a large group of capable and interesting speakers for churches, and for women's, laymen's, young people's groups in the area.

President Flannery will spend most of the fall quarter off campus, as he will be in Minnesota, Illinois and Michigan the latter part of September and most of October. The first three weeks in November will be spent in New England.

The hardest job in the world is to do nothing.

Church News

On September 22 a pot-luck supper was held at the Pilgrim Church, Birmingham. Dr. Thos. Anderson and Arthur E. Rapp of Central Church, Atlanta, visited the church on behalf of the Convention's Every Church Canvass, and presented the filmstrip and tape recording, and answered questions concerning the Convention's plan for self-support.

On September 26, Christian Education Sunday, the morning service will emphasize the work of the Sunday School and will include a service of dedication of our teachers. Several new teachers will contribute to the program during the coming year. Jim Lacey, aided by Bill Mayer, will have the senior high class. Mrs. Hermann will teach the junior high group. The primary class will be taught by Mrs. Harris, and Mrs. Feazel will work with the kindergarten group. Mrs. Fletcher will continue with the juniors and Mrs. Gray will help again in the kindergarten. The two adult classes will again be led by Locke White and Allyn Wadleigh.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest Henderson, Miss Bennett and Mrs. Bussinger will take a well-earned rest from teaching duties. We greatly appreciate their contributions to the Christian Education program. We are thankful for the sense of duty and the spirit of cooperation which our teachers bring to their work.

The Rev. J. Ernest Sommerville of Central Park Presbyterian Church will be the guest speaker on October 18. Pilgrim Church was greatly honored to have Dr. Sidney M. Berry at the morning service on October 3. Dr. Berry gave the Communion Meditation for Worldwide Communion Sunday.

The Every Member Canvass will be held November 14, with Bill Mayer and Charles Feazel as co-chairmen.

School and college openings have called Bob Hunter, Jimmy Wood and Dick Quinn, but the church will be looking forward to seeing them at Christmas.

During the enforced idleness while recuperating from an operation this summer, the Rev. Wadleigh was very busy indulging in his secret dream of literary fame. The July issue of PULPIT PREACHING contained her sermon, "Taking God at His Word". In early issues this same journal will also publish an Advent sermon, "What Kind of Messiah Are We Seeking" and a dramatic story-sermon called "The Fare." Copies of these can be procured. THE UPPER ROOR PULPIT will have a Thanksgiving sermon, "Taking Life for Gratitude". In early 1955 THE PULPIT DIGEST will print a Passion Sunday sermon, "Command Decision." DAILY DEVOTIONS will have a series of directed meditations called "Trouble on the Cable," an outgrowth of a recent sermon. "Congratulations to Mr. Wadleigh on his literary success.

—Mrs. Charles E. Feazel, reporter

* * *

The Rev. Carolyn Welch has resigned from the pastorate of the Thorsby Congregational Church.

What is a great loss to us is a gain for others. She is now teaching religious history to those preparing for the ministry at Southern Union College and also will assist in the library.

Some time ago our men's fellowship planned highway markers with information about our church. These are now in place—one south and one north of the town. Stop and see us.

—Emily W. Harding, reporter

* * *

It is with regret that we announce that our pastor, the Rev. N. A. Long, has resigned as pastor of the Dorcas Church near Crestview. We have enjoyed having the Longs with us. The wonderful messages he has brought to us, as well as the wonderful fellowship, have been an inspiration. Both the Rev. and Mrs. Long have worked untiringly while here and we will miss them and always cherish their friendship.

A beautiful tho simple wedding ceremony was performed in the Dorcas Church on September 4 at seven o'clock when Jack M. Powell and Miss Shirley Ann Winstead were united in marriage with a double ring ceremony performed by the Rev. Trammel Kilpatrick.

The congregation of Dorcas Church is looking forward to entertaining the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association meeting October 14 and 15.

—Mrs. John W. Powell, reporter

* * *

The Highway Church, Lanett, has been very active for the past month. The laymen's club, of which Charles McClure is president, took for its project the complete renovation of the building. To begin with they water-proofed the exterior of the brick walls and then painted outside and inside. The pews were refinished and the floors sanded and refinished. Our hats are off to this group of hard-working men, and we are all proud of a job well done.

On August 28 the church sponsored a chicken supper to raise money to build a garage and laundry room for the parsonage. We were happy to clear a total of \$230.43 and the building is now under construction. Serving on the committee in charge were Mrs. Noel Allen, Mrs. Melba Ragland, Mrs. E. B. Doolittle, Mrs. Joe Harper, and Mrs. Mary Brown. Every church family actively participated in this undertaking and a fine spirit of cooperation and fellowship prevailed.

The two circles of our W.M.S. are observing Home Mission work by paying for school lunches for two underprivileged children of our church.

Mrs. Noel Allen was in charge of an installation service at the church Monday night, September 12, when the new officers of the woman's fellowship circle were installed. They are: President, Mrs. Louise Brown, Vice president, Mrs. Melba Ragland; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Freda Ferrell; and Friendly Service Chairman, Mrs. Eula Crenshaw.

—Noel Allen, reporter

* * *

The Lanett Church voted the Rev. Joe A. French a three-week vacation this summer. He and his

family report delightful visits with Mrs. French's family in Tennessee and with former ministerial friends and class-mates in North Carolina and Virginia. During Mrs. French's absence, the Rev. Edw. M. Robertson, Auburn, Ala., very ably supplied the pulpit.

The recreational activities for the youth of the church have been so successful that Friday evening has been designated for adult recreation. These evenings together are most enjoyable.

Charlie Miller, head usher, entertained the Board of Ushers at supper in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Mrs. Miller, assisted by Mrs. French, served delicious ranchburgers with all the trimmings and drinks to the fourteen men present.

The Senior Hi young people enjoyed a most pleasant evening at a wiener roast down at the attractive back-water camp home of Curtis Sims. Doris Sims and Ann Patterson did an excellent job heading the plans for the outing. Twenty-six young people attended.

Sunday evening, September 19, was chosen by the Missionary Auxiliary to conduct a public worship service. Mrs. French lead the order of worship and presented Mrs. Maggie Emfingle from the Community Chapel Church of God. Mrs. Emfingle spoke in a most challenging and effective manner, closing with the installation of new officers.

New officers for the coming year to head the various departments are: Church Clerk, A. D. Harry; Treasurer, Lawrence Moncus; S. S. Supt., S. W. Seymour; Secretary, Mrs. John Dollar, Jr.; Missionary Auxiliary -- President, Mrs. Frank Hatcher; Secretary, Mrs. Frank Moon; Laymen's Fellowship -- President, John Dollar, Jr.; Secretary, Arthur Dailey; Pilgrim Fellowship -- President, Mrs. Joe A. French; Counselors, Mrs. A. D. Harry, Mrs. Charles Miller and E. G. Shaddix, Jr.

We are saddened by the death of two of our members -- Mrs. Ellore Orrick and James A. Roquemore on September 18 and 21, respectively.

The Auxiliary meeting on September 20 ended a most successful year for our Missionary Circles. The new leaders met with their members during the refreshment period for the election of their officers. This was the annual drawing for members. The shifting of our membership each year has proven very helpful in as much as our women have learned to know each other better and bonds of friendship and fellowship greatly strengthened.

—Mrs. A. D. Harry, reporter

* * *

The Annual Homecoming was held at **Union Hill Church**, Pearson, on Sunday, August 22, with the largest attendance in several years. Dr. A. R. Van Cleave, Dean of Southern Union College, was the guest speaker, and his subject was "The Return to Bethel." It was a real thrill to see old friends shaking hands, smiling, eating, and everyone looking so happy.

The men of the church have organized with the following officers: Tavelle Courson, President; W. L. Watson, Vice president; Woodrow James, Secretary-Treasurer. We are expecting much good to come from our men in their efforts to serve their church and community better.

Our young people who attended Camp Waycross reported the "best camp ever". Thanks to all who had part in planning and participating in the camp.

Revival Services were conducted the fourth week in August. Dr. Van Cleave brought the messages and was assisted in the worship service by the pastor, the Rev. Earl Hand. It was truly a wonderful week, and there were five additions: Mrs. Frankie Gidden and daughter, Mary Ina, Misses Lynn Murray and Christine Moseley and Jimmy Watson.

The Ladies Aid Society have elected officers for the coming year: Mrs. Ruth Boone, President; Mrs. Nell Hand, Vice president; Mrs. Miriam Bazemore, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. H. Y. Sears, Key Woman. We have recently purchased a stove for the parsonage. Our hopes are to do a lot of work for Our Christian World Mission during the coming year.

—Evelyn Sears, reporter

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The Rev. M. O. Worley has decided to remain as pastor of the **Alexander City Hunt Church** for another year.

We were honored to have Supt. Erston Butterfield with us the night of September 5, to bring the message. A fellowship supper was served before the service, and proved to be a very enjoyable occasion with opportunity for everyone to talk and get acquainted with Brother Butterfield--an evening we will always remember.

New officers have been elected for the year: Clerk, E. C. Alford; Treasurer, Lynn Blair; S. S. Supt., T. O. Burnett; Assistant, B. B. Taylor; Deacon, T. O. Burnett; Trustee, Gerald Thomas; Reporter, Gloria Blair.

Officers were also elected for the Women's Fellowship: President, Mrs. James Cumbee; Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Lenore Alford; Program Chairmen, Mrs. A. C. Pemberton and Mrs. Lynn Blair; Reporter, Mrs. Allen Smith; Field Workers, Mrs. N. A. Riley, Mrs. Pauline Patton, Mrs. Allen Smith; Friendly Service, Mrs. Lynn Blair, Chm., and Mrs. Allen Smith, Mrs. James Cumbee; Key Woman, Mrs. M. O. Worley.

At the last meeting names were drawn for Secret Pals, and will not be revealed until the last December meeting at the social. The ladies were most fortunate to have as guest speaker Miss Emy Truesell, who gave a very interesting devotional on "The Last Judgement." Mrs. E. C. Alford served refreshments.

—Mrs. James Cumbee, reporter

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The member and friends of the **First Congregational Christian Church**, Columbus, are looking forward to the Annual Homecoming October 17, when Superintendent Butterfield will be the guest speaker. At that time the new parsonage will be dedicated. The church has paid \$2,700 during the past year toward building, as well as all the running expenses.

Recently the 65 laymen from East Alabama and West Georgia met at First Church. After supper the meeting was called to order by the president and new officers for the ensuing year were elected. R. L. Howell of the host church accepted the office of President for 1954-55. The work of this group of laymen is very encouraging. The Laymen's Fellowship of First Church is doing a wonderful job in many ways. Two new fans were purchased, much work on the church (including new wiring

for the church and parsonage) and work on the church roof. The men go out calling on sick and shut-in folks on Sunday afternoons.

The Ladies Missionary Society has finished paying for the carpet for the church at a cost of well over \$600.

The Pilgrim Fellowship is very active and meets regularly every week. Inas Dillard, president, is attending Southern Union College this year. We are very happy about Inas -- she is a fine Christian girl and an excellent leader.

—Peter Doherty, pastor

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Truly there were "showers of blessings" during the week's revival services held at **Sardis Church**, Oxford, Ga. The revival services were begun with a Homecoming and church dinner on August 1, and lasted until the following Sunday afternoon with a service each weekday night except Saturday. The final service of the series was a very impressive baptismal and Communion service.

The pastor of the church, Scott Morris, Jr., brought the messages of the series to a full house each evening. He was assisted in one service, August 3, by the Rev. Henry Abbott, pastor of the Vanceville Church of Tifton.

There were seven additions to the church during the meeting, three coming in by letter and four on profession of faith and were baptized by the pastor in the Sunday afternoon service were Miss Betty Otera Sockwell, Mrs. D. T. Williams, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Dewey Fisher, Sr. The baptism, witnessed by a large assemblage of friends and relatives of the converts, was performed by the pastor while the candidates knelt before the candlelit altar on which rested the holy water and the sacred elements of the Communion.

After the service in the church, the Women's Auxiliary entertained at a reception for the new church members on the church lawn.

—Scott Morris, Jr., pastor

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The congregation of the **Ft. Valley Society Hill Church** is building an addition of three Sunday School rooms. Funds have been raised by donations from members and friends and most of the materials have been purchased. Labor has been donated, and it is expected that the rooms will be completed in the near future.

Sunday School classes were organized last April, and there are now 60 on roll with an average attendance of 47.

—Mrs. John Hutto, reporter

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The Vacation Bible School of **Pleasant Hill Community Church** was the successful culmination of plans started in the early spring. A corps of seven junior workers from our Pilgrim Fellowship assumed major responsibility. They all attended the Summer Camp at Pomona, Tenn., and assisted in the demonstration school held there under the capable leadership of the Rev. Annie Campbell and Mrs. Marion Young -- both skilled and experienced in the field of Christian education.

This year Pleasant Hill did not request the help of a Student Summer Service worker -- in fact, we supplied two assistants to help the two college S.S.S. girls working in the Southeast Convention area. Bettye Cunningham and Mary

Stewart, altho still in high school, have had experience in teaching and proved valuable helpers.

In our local school, Mrs. Paul Reynolds was teacher of the older class assisted by Marian Van Winkle and Beulah Blalock. Miss Heermans was superintendent and teacher of the primary group with Ardene Swafford and Freda Tucker assisting. Freda was also our pianist.

Norman Moore, Mary Emma Thompson and Bettye Cuninghame (who had returned from her work farther afield) led the kindergarten section. This met on the big porch of the Guest House. Norma Moore was pianist here. The lawn of the Guest House provided an excellent setting for the outdoor play.

Following the close of the two weeks school, the Sunday morning church service hour was given over to a program bringing out the activities of the school. The work done by the children was exhibited. This climaxed a very happy and valuable summer experience.

—Miss Miriam Heermans, reporter

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On September 9, the Ladies Guild of the **Daisy Church** met at the home of Mrs. Emma Lewis with Mrs. Dillard Blackburn co-hostess.

Mrs. Mildred Burke, chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave the following report: Mrs. Herman Yarnell, President; Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, First Vice President; Mrs. Paul Lewis, Second Vice president; Mrs. Ralph Ferry, Secretary; Mrs. R. C. Webb, Treasurer. Officers were elected and will be installed at the next regular meeting by Mrs. J. W. Davenport.

It was voted to give a love offering to Mrs. Robert Freeman, a member of the Guild. Her two year old son, Eddie, has been in a cast for ten months now, and in the last month has undergone two operations. Little Eddie is doing nicely now and it is hoped he will be walking soon.

The Guild sponsored the Open House honoring the Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Davenport September 19. A beautiful 21 inch television set was presented the Davenports as a gift from the church.

—Mrs. Claude Pendergrass, reporter

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The annual homecoming service of the **Pilgrim Church**, Corbin, Ky., was held September 4 and 5, with a Service of Praise and Dedication an Saturday night and a Service of Remembrance and Fellowship on Sunday morning.

During the evening service on Saturday, the new organ which was installed recently and which is giving us a real blessing in its music was dedicated. More than 70 members and friends of the church made this organ possible, and the Service of Dedication was a Fitting tribute to their generosity.

Many former members and friends from far and near attended the homecoming service, and enjoyed the annual picnic held after the morning services. "Fellowship" has always been one of the most precious realities within our church.

The church building has been remodeled both inside and out, and today it stands ready to serve the community as it has since 1887. What our church lacks in size we make up in spirit.

—Clara Rennebaum, reporter

THE CHRISTIAN AND THE BALLOT

By Social Action Committee:
Carolyn Welch and Richard Drake

Much has been said about the responsibility of a Christian to the symbol of his citizenship, the ballot. Seldom, however, do Christians think deeply about what this ballot is, and the tremendously difficult job they have in using it well.

Any real evaluation of the ballot must probe much deeper than the duty of citizenship and the privilege of voting. Fundamentally, the ballot represents an act of faith, for its existence rests upon a belief in popular sovereignty. Can the mass of men and women be given custody of their own destiny? Can they be allowed to choose their own governments?

Man has always had some kind of government. Some regulation seems to be necessary if men are to live in harmony. And the possession of this government is an attractive thing. It means power, and from this power come riches and comfort, fame and honor. So, governments will be contended for. Someone will possess them.

In ancient Egypt the Pharaoh alone possessed government, and he enjoyed most of its benefits. In medieval times a small knightly class owned government, and for this scant 10% of the population the masses of men toiled from sun to sun. In modern times the belief has become more and more widely accepted that the people can best govern themselves.

The Christian faith supports this modern belief in the dignity of the individual soul. This is especially true of Protestantism. If "every man is his own priest" we are all equally sons of the Father and brothers in Christ. The ballot is the sacred symbol of our Protestant faith as reflected in Government.

Is this faith well placed? Can man be trusted with such an important instrument? Perhaps the medieval lord was right. Perhaps the ordinary man cannot be held directly answerable to his God and his neighbors in matters of government.

Certain recent scientific tendencies seem to raise this very question. Materialistic evolutionists, for example, emphasize the brutishness of man, seeing in man only a descendent of some primordial ape. The Freudian psychologist sees man as only a bundle of sex drives seeking fulfillment. If this is what man is, he is certainly poor material with which to build a democracy.

Furthermore, the way in which the ballot actually operates in this, "the most Christian and Democratic nation of the world", gives believers in popular sovereignty some reason for perplexity. What are some of these "danger signals" which we can see about us?

The first is the misuse of the ballot. Very, very seldom is it used properly. In the recent Democratic primary in Georgia only about one-fourth of the eligible voters took the trouble to vote. Even of those who do vote, the ballot is so prostituted

that the final results is often contrary to the will of the majority of the people. Some votes are bought. Others are wagered, or are thrown away on bandwagon candidates who, through clever campaign propaganda, are able to sweep on to victory.

A ballot cast with a "pick the winner" attitude is perhaps one of the most serious misuses of the franchise. Some want to "vote right" so that some sort of benefits will be forthcoming. Others conceive of a ballot as a sort of sweepstakes. They try to pick as many winners as possible in a kind of contest with themselves. How often have we heard the expression, "Well, I picked all but two of 'em." People who would not think of playing the horses play political candidates in bookmaker fashion.

Another danger signal in the operation of American democracy is the widespread feeling among Christians that politics is evil, and that good people ought to stay out. The corruption of American government is well known to us all. But one of the reasons for this corruption is the fact that Christians among us abdicate their role in government to the unscrupulous. Government is attractive enough so that there will always be those who court her . . . for personal benefit. If Christians cast politics and government from them as sinful, government will be welcomed gladly by those who will make her even more unprincipled.

Yet, with all these attacks upon the ballot and the faith in popular sovereignty, it has had its successes too. Of our 34 presidents there have been only three that you could term failures, and at least ten have been great or near-great. No dynastic house ever had such a record.

Furthermore, statemen continue to appear in our Congress. Men with vision are able to be elected to public office. The governments based on popular sovereignty have given a continued overall leadership more admirable than other forms of government.

When a Christian confronts his ballot, the decisions he makes regarding it are not simple ones. "Should I vote for principles I believe in, or should I vote for a man whom I believe can win?" It is upon you Christians that the ultimate workability of the principle of popular sovereignty depends. Make your decisions honestly, in prayer and thoughtfulness. The ballot is not to be taken lightly—to cast one is an act of faith.



Friends, like all good things in this life, can be had by any one who wants them. There is only one simple rule to follow. It is this: To have a friend, be one yourself. No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to any one else.

673 Piedmont Avenue, N. E.
Atlanta, Georgia

PROJECT OF THE MONTH FOR PF GROUPS

Many boys and girls overseas are having a chance to go to school, thanks to Our Christian World Mission. Some of them meet in schools needing equipment which only more money can provide. A great many of them, however, need the simple supplies which school children in this country take for granted and which can be sent easily and inexpensively from this country. Such supplies made up into school packs make most welcome and needed gifts. If children in your classes would like to send a school pack to children in Italy, Lebanon and Greece, they should take the following steps:

1. Collect these supplies: one Manila portfolio, 9½ x 12 (to hold materials) (15c); one pair of scissors (5c); one eraser (5c); one doz. of colored pencils or crayons (10c); two pencils (5c); one package of white copy or typewriting paper, 9 x 12 (20c); one package of drawing paper, 9 x 12 (10c); one package of small plain envelopes (10c); one copybook 8½ x 11 (15c); one package of assorted colored paper, 9 x 12 (15c). Approximate total cost, including parcel post charge, is \$1.45.

2. Include, if desired an envelope with an International Reply Coupon (available from your post office) and a card with the sender's name and address, so that the boy or girl who receives the pack may write a thank-you letter. No letters or messages may be enclosed.

3. Pack supplies in the portfolio, then wrap it for mailing. On the outside paste a first-class envelope (send no letters in this envelope) containing the following two items:

(a) A two-cent U. S. Postal card, addressed to the sender and bearing the following message: "Your school pack received." This will come back when the parcel is opened by warehouse workers of the Congregational Christian Service Committee in New York.

(b) A quarter (25c) inserted in a coin-card or taped securely to a card and covered with another piece of paper. This helps defray the cost of sending the school pack overseas.

4. Mark the package "School Supplies" and be

SET it down as a fact to which there are no exceptions, that we must labor for all that we have, and that nothing is worth possessing, or offering to others, which costs us nothing.

PRAYER IS A JOURNEY OF THE SOUL TOWARD GOD

A friend wrote to me a few weeks ago and confided that she could no longer pray. For many people prayer is becoming increasingly difficult. Reasons include experiments in prayer which failed to produce the desired results and the tenseness and complexity of modern life.

Some of our difficulties concerning prayer originate in our false ideas about prayer. We think of it as a means of persuading a reluctant God to do what he does not desire to do; or as a gesture of respectability.

Prayer is an activity of our inner consciousness. It is the journey of the soul toward God.

True prayer works. We must remember that true prayer is more than words. It must be the expression of our fervent desire activated to the best of our ability. God is willing to help us in the realization of worthy goals. He never furnishes a "gravy train".

Just what does true prayer do? How does it work? It intensifies our awareness of God as the ultimate reality. God becomes a power working in and through us. It is a power that changes not, nor can it be diminished.

Prayer will restore our balance. It gives poise and inner calm. That is why prayer aids the sick. Nature heals more rapidly when we are at ease. Calmness is also a required mental state if we are to make correct judgments.

Prayer gives us proper perspective. We are enabled to see ideas and events in the light of their eternal value.

No doubt the best proof is to be found in the actions of men who pray. It was said of Paul, "Behold he prayeth." Francis of Assisi was a man of prayer as was Luther. No one can read the Gospels without being impressed by the prayers of Jesus.

Talmage Hartman,
Brookmeade Church, Nashville.

sure to put your return address in the upper left-hand corner.

5. Address the package with attached envelope to: Congregational Christian Service Committee, 110 East 29th St., New York 16, N. Y.

The Service Committee will do the rest. It will send the school pack to one of its representatives in Italy, Greece or Lebanon who will give the pack to a school boy or girl.

—Armstrong Hunter, in ADVANCE.